

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 Claim 1. (currently amended) A software licence management
2 system ~~(1, 60)~~ in which a licence to use a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ is
3 represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~, the system comprising:
4 a software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ for controlling use of a software
5 product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a user device ~~(3, 64)~~; and
6 a licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ for communicating with the
7 software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ via a data communications network ~~(5,~~
8 ~~63)~~;
9 wherein the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ is adapted for
10 - allowing said use of the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ substantially only
11 during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~
12 supplied to the software controller by the licence management server
13 ~~(2, 61)~~,
14 - enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current
15 data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the licence management server, whereby
16 the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another
17 said software controller ~~(6b, 62b)~~, and
18 - supplying one of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and the exchange
19 token via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the licence management server to be
20 exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to
21 extend the licence for the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ beyond the use
22 period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the
23 licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an
24 exchange token from another said software controller;
25 and wherein the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ is adapted for
26 - supplying via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the software controller ~~(6a,~~
27 ~~62a)~~ a new data token, to replace the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and
28 having a new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current
29 data token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data
30 token, received from the software controller, and
31 - detecting if a said token received from the software controller for
32 exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence
33 management server ~~(2, 61)~~.

1 Claim 2. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1
2 wherein the exchange token is a copy of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~,

3 the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ being adapted for detecting if
4 the same data token is received twice for exchange.

1 Claim 3. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 2
2 wherein the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ is adapted for:
3 storing a token identifier corresponding to each data token ~~(7,~~
4 ~~67)~~ received by the server ~~(2, 61)~~ for exchange; and
5 comparing the token identifier for each received data token with
6 the stored token identifiers to detect if the same data token ~~(7, 67)~~
7 is received twice for exchange.

1 Claim 4. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 3
2 wherein the token identifier for a data token ~~(7, 67)~~ comprises that
3 data token.

1 Claim 5. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the system is adapted such that the use
3 periods associated with alternate data tokens ~~(7, 67)~~ in a chain of
4 data tokens received by the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ from the
5 licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ do not overlap.

1 Claim 6. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 1 wherein:
3 an exchange period is associated with each data token ~~(7, 67)~~;
4 and
5 the system is adapted such that a new data token, to replace a
6 current data token, can be obtained by the software controller ~~(6a,~~
7 ~~62a)~~ only during the exchange period associated with that current data
8 token.

1 Claim 7. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 6
2 wherein the use period and exchange period associated with a data token
3 ~~(7, 67)~~ overlap.

1 Claim 8. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ is adapted
3 for enabling user access to said exchange token by supplying the
4 exchange token for storage by the user.

1 Claim 9. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~
2 ~~claims~~ claim 1 to 7 wherein the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ is
3 adapted for enabling user access to said exchange token by storing the
4 exchange token at a back-up storage location and supplying access data,
5 for accessing the exchange token at said storage location, to the user.

1 Claim 10. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ is
3 adapted for supplying a new data token ~~(7, 67)~~ in exchange for a
4 received token only if the received token does not correspond to a
5 token already exchanged.

1 Claim 11. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~
2 ~~claims~~ claim 1 to 9 wherein the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ is
3 adapted for supplying a new data token ~~(7, 67)~~ in exchange for a
4 received token before detecting if the received token corresponds to a
5 token already exchanged.

1 Claim 12. (currently amended) A software licence management
2 system ~~(50)~~ in which a licence to use a software product ~~(55)~~ is
3 represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the system comprising:

4 a software controller ~~(52a)~~ for controlling use of a software
5 product ~~(55)~~ at a user device ~~(53)~~; and

6 a licence management server ~~(51)~~ for communicating with the
7 software controller ~~(52a)~~ via a data communications network ~~(54)~~;

8 wherein the software controller ~~(52a)~~ is adapted for

9 - allowing said use of the software product ~~(55)~~ substantially only
10 during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(56)~~ supplied
11 to the software controller by the licence management server ~~(51)~~,
12 - receiving an exchange token ~~(57)~~ associated with said licence, and
13 - supplying one of the current data token ~~(56)~~ and the exchange token
14 ~~(57)~~ via the network ~~(54)~~ to the licence management server (51) to be
15 exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the
16 software product beyond the use period associated with a current data
17 token ~~(56)~~ supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said
18 exchange token ~~(57)~~ is received by the software controller in the
19 absence of a current data token ~~(56)~~;

20 and wherein the licence management server ~~(51)~~ is adapted for

21 - storing the use period for each data token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the
22 software controller ~~(52a)~~ under the licence, and
23 - supplying via the network ~~(54)~~ to the software controller ~~(52a)~~ a new
24 data token in exchange for a current data token ~~(56)~~, or said exchange
25 token ~~(57)~~, received from the software controller, the new data token
26 having a new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data
27 token previously-supplied under the licence.

1 Claim 13. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 12 wherein a said data token ~~(7, 56, 67)~~ comprises a
3 coin.

1 Claim 14. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 12 wherein the use period associated with a data token
3 ~~(7, 56, 67)~~ is indicated in the data token.

1 Claim 15. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 12 wherein the software controller ~~(6a, 52a, 62a)~~ is
3 adapted for supplying one of the current data token ~~(7, 56, 67)~~ and the
4 exchange token automatically to the licence management server ~~(2, 51,~~
5 ~~61)~~ to extend the licence for the software product ~~(4, 55, 65)~~.

1 Claim 16. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 12
2 wherein:
3 an exchange period is associated with each data token ~~(56)~~; and
4 the system is adapted such that a new data token, to replace a
5 current data token ~~(56)~~, can be obtained by the software controller
6 ~~(52a)~~ only during the exchange period associated with that current data
7 token.

1 Claim 17. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~claim 6 or~~
2 claim 16 wherein the exchange period associated with a data token ~~(7,~~
3 ~~56, 67)~~ is indicated in the data token.

1 Claim 18. (currently amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 12 wherein:
3 a said data token ~~(67)~~ represents a licence to use a plurality of
4 software products ~~(65)~~; and
5 the software controller ~~(62a)~~ is adapted for storing product
6 data, indicative of said plurality of software products, at a back-up

7 storage location ~~(58)~~, and allowing use of each of the software
8 products ~~(65)~~ substantially only during the use period associated with
9 the current data token ~~(67)~~ supplied by the licence management server
10 ~~(61)~~.

1 Claim 19. (original) A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the
2 product data comprises, for each software product, data representing an
3 individual licence (LSP) for that software product.

1 Claim 20. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 18 ~~or~~
2 ~~claim 19~~ wherein the product data comprises the software products ~~(65)~~.

1 Claim 21. (currently amended) A software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~
2 for use in a software licence management system ~~(1, 60)~~ in which a
3 licence to use a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ is represented by a data
4 token ~~(7, 67)~~, the system ~~(1, 60)~~ having a licence management server
5 ~~(2, 61)~~ for communicating with the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ via a
6 data communications network ~~(5, 63)~~, wherein the software controller
7 ~~(6a, 62a)~~ comprises control logic for controlling use of a software
8 product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a user device ~~(3, 64)~~, the control logic being
9 adapted for:

10 allowing said use of the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ substantially
11 only during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~
12 supplied to the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ by the licence management
13 server ~~(2, 61)~~;

14 enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the
15 current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the licence management server
16 ~~(2, 61)~~, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data
17 token to another said software controller ~~(6b, 62b)~~; and

18 supplying one of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and the exchange
19 token via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~
20 to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token
21 (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use
22 period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the
23 licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an
24 exchange token from another said software controller.

1 Claim 22. (currently amended) A licence management server ~~(2,~~
2 ~~61)~~ for use with a software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ as claimed in claim 21
3 in a software licence management system ~~(1, 60)~~ in which a licence to
4 use a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ is represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~,
5 the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ comprising control logic adapted
6 for:

7 communicating with the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ via a data
8 communications network ~~(5, 63)~~;

9 supplying via the network to the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ a
10 new data token, to replace the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and having a
11 new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current data
12 token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data token,
13 received from the software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~; and

14 detecting if a said token received from the software controller
15 for exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence
16 management server ~~(2, 61)~~.

1 Claim 23. (currently amended) A software controller ~~(52a)~~ for
2 use in a software licence management system ~~(50)~~ in which a licence to
3 use a software product ~~(55)~~ is represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the
4 system ~~(50)~~ having a licence management server ~~(51)~~ for communicating
5 with the software controller ~~(52a)~~ via a data communications network
6 ~~(54)~~, wherein the software controller ~~(52a)~~ comprises control logic for
7 controlling use of a software product ~~(55)~~ at a user device ~~(53)~~, the
8 control logic being adapted for:

9 allowing said use of the software product ~~(55)~~ substantially only
10 during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(56)~~ supplied
11 to the software controller ~~(52a)~~ by the licence management server ~~(51)~~;

12 receiving an exchange token ~~(57)~~ associated with said licence;
13 and

14 supplying one of the current data token ~~(56)~~ and the exchange
15 token ~~(57)~~ via the network ~~(54)~~ to the licence management server ~~(51)~~
16 to be exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the
17 software product ~~(55)~~ beyond the use period associated with a current
18 data token ~~(56)~~ supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a

19 said exchange token ~~(57)~~ is received by the software controller ~~(52a)~~
20 in the absence of a current data token ~~(56)~~.

1 Claim 24. (currently amended) A licence management server ~~(51)~~
2 for use with a software controller ~~(52a)~~ as claimed in claim 23 in a
3 software licence management system ~~(50)~~ in which a licence to use a
4 software product ~~(55)~~ is represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the licence
5 management server ~~(51)~~ comprising control logic adapted for:
6 communicating with the software controller ~~(52a)~~ via a data
7 communications network ~~(54)~~;
8 storing the use period for each data token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the
9 software controller ~~(52a)~~ under the licence; and
10 supplying via the network ~~(54)~~ to the software controller ~~(52a)~~ a
11 new data token in exchange for a current data token ~~(56)~~, or said
12 exchange token ~~(57)~~, received from the software controller, the new
13 data token having a new use period which does not overlap the use
14 period of a data token previously-supplied under the licence.

1 Claim 25. (currently amended) A computer program for controlling
2 use of a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a user device ~~(3, 64)~~ in
3 accordance with a licence represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~, the user
4 device ~~(3, 64)~~ being connectable to a licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~
5 via a data communications network ~~(5, 63)~~, the computer program
6 comprising program code means adapted to:

7 allow use of the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ at the user device ~~(3,~~
8 ~~64)~~ substantially only during a use period associated with a current
9 data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied to the user device by the licence
10 management server ~~(2, 61)~~;

11 enable user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current
12 data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~,
13 whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to
14 another user device; and

15 supply one of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and the exchange
16 token via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~
17 to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token
18 (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use
19 period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the

20 licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an
21 exchange token from another user device.

1 Claim 26. (currently amended) A computer program for use in a
2 licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ of a software licence management
3 system ~~(1, 60)~~ in which a licence to use a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ is
4 represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~, the system ~~(1, 60)~~ including a
5 software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ as claimed in claim 21 and the licence
6 management server ~~(2, 61)~~ being adapted for communicating with the
7 software controller ~~(6a, 62a)~~ via a data communications network ~~(5,~~
8 ~~63)~~, wherein the computer program comprises program code means adapted
9 to cause the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ to:
10 supply via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the software controller ~~(6a,~~
11 ~~62a)~~ a new data token, to replace the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and
12 having a new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current
13 data token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data
14 token, received by the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ from the
15 software controller; and
16 detect if a said token received from the software controller for
17 exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence
18 management server ~~(2, 61)~~.

1 Claim 27. (currently amended) A computer program for controlling
2 use of a software product ~~(55)~~ at a user device ~~(53)~~ in accordance with
3 a licence represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the user device ~~(53)~~ being
4 connectable to a licence management server ~~(51)~~ via a data
5 communications network ~~(54)~~, the computer program comprising program
6 code means adapted to:
7 allow use of the software product ~~(55)~~ at the user device ~~(53)~~
8 substantially only during a use period associated with a current data
9 token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the user device by the licence management server
10 ~~(51)~~;
11 receive an exchange token ~~(57)~~ associated with said licence; and
12 supply one of the current data token ~~(56)~~ and the exchange token
13 ~~(57)~~ via the network ~~(54)~~ to the licence management server ~~(51)~~ to be
14 exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the
15 software product beyond the use period associated with a current data

16 token ~~(56)~~ supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said
17 exchange token ~~(57)~~ is received by the user device ~~(53)~~ in the absence
18 of a current data token ~~(56)~~.

1 Claim 28. (currently amended) A computer program for use in a
2 licence management server ~~(51)~~ of a software licence management system
3 ~~(50)~~ in which a licence to use a software product ~~(55)~~ is represented
4 by a data token ~~(56)~~, the system ~~(50)~~ including a software controller
5 ~~(52a)~~ as claimed in claim 23 and the licence management server ~~(51)~~
6 being adapted for communicating with the software controller ~~(52a)~~ via
7 a data communications network ~~(54)~~, wherein the computer program
8 comprises program code means adapted to cause the licence management
9 server ~~(51)~~ to:

10 store the use period for each data token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the
11 software controller ~~(52a)~~ under the licence; and

12 supply via the network ~~(54)~~ to the software controller ~~(52a)~~ a
13 new data token in exchange for a current data token ~~(56)~~, or said
14 exchange token ~~(57)~~, received by the licence management server ~~(51)~~
15 from the software controller, the new data token having a new use
16 period which does not overlap the use period of a data token
17 previously-supplied under the licence.

1 Claim 29. (currently amended) A method for controlling use of a
2 software product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a user device ~~(3, 64)~~ in accordance with a
3 licence represented by a data token ~~(7, 67)~~, the user device ~~(3, 64)~~
4 being connectable to a licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ via a data
5 communications network ~~(5, 63)~~, wherein the method comprises, at the
6 user device ~~(3, 64)~~:

7 allowing use of the software product ~~(4, 65)~~ substantially only
8 during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~
9 supplied to the user device by the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~;

10 enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the
11 current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the licence management server
12 ~~(2, 61)~~, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data
13 token to another user device; and

14 supplying one of the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and the exchange
15 token via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~

16 to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token
17 (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use
18 period associated with a current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ supplied by the
19 licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an
20 exchange token from another user device.

1 Claim 30. (currently amended) A method for operation of a
2 licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~ of a software licence management
3 system ~~(1, 60)~~, in which system use of a software product ~~(4, 65)~~ at a
4 user device ~~(3, 64)~~ is controlled by a method as claimed in claim 29,
5 the method for operation of the licence management server ~~(2, 61)~~
6 comprising:

7 supplying via the network ~~(5, 63)~~ to the user device ~~(3, 64)~~ a
8 new data token, to replace the current data token ~~(7, 67)~~ and having a
9 new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current data
10 token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data token,
11 received from the user device ~~(3, 64)~~; and

12 detecting if a said token received from the user device ~~(3, 64)~~
13 for exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence
14 management server ~~(2, 61)~~.

1 Claim 31. (currently amended) A method for controlling use of a
2 software product ~~(55)~~ at a user device ~~(53)~~ in accordance with a
3 licence represented by a data token ~~(56)~~, the user device ~~(53)~~ being
4 connectable to a licence management server ~~(51)~~ via a data
5 communications network ~~(54)~~, wherein the method comprises, at the user
6 device ~~(53)~~:

7 allowing use of the software product ~~(55)~~ substantially only
8 during a use period associated with a current data token ~~(56)~~ supplied
9 to the user device by the licence management server ~~(51)~~; and

10 supplying one of the current data token ~~(56)~~ and an exchange
11 token ~~(57)~~, associated with said licence, via the network ~~(54)~~ to the
12 licence management server ~~(51)~~ to be exchanged for a new data token (a)
13 to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period
14 associated with a current data token ~~(56)~~ supplied by the licence
15 management server ~~(51)~~ and (b) if a said exchange token ~~(57)~~ is

16 received by the user device ~~(53)~~ in the absence of a current data token
17 ~~(56)~~.

1 Claim 32. (currently amended) A method for operation of a
2 licence management server ~~(51)~~ of a software licence management system
3 ~~(50)~~, in which system use of a software product ~~(55)~~ at a user device
4 ~~(53)~~ is controlled by a method as claimed in claim 31, the method for
5 operation of the licence management server ~~(51)~~ comprising:
6 storing the use period for each data token ~~(56)~~ supplied to the
7 user device ~~(53)~~ under the licence; and
8 supplying via the network ~~(54)~~ to the user device ~~(53)~~ a new data
9 token in exchange for a current data token ~~(56)~~, or said exchange token
10 ~~(57)~~, received from the user device ~~(53)~~, the new data token having a
11 new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data token
12 previously-supplied under the licence.

1 Claim 33. (currently amended) A computer program product stored
2 on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program means
3 for causing a computer to perform the computer program according to ~~any~~
4 ~~one of the claims~~ claim 25 ~~to 28~~.